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Walla Walla District
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Ice Harbor and McNary visitor centers reopen tomorrow

Walla Walla, Wash. – The powerhouse visitor centers at Ice Harbor and McNary dams will reopen to the public tomorrow morning, according to officials from the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers here.

The visitor centers at the two dams will be open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily through Sept. 30. McNary's center contains many historical artifacts from the dam's construction period and allows visitors a behind-the-glass inside view of the powerhouse. Ice Harbor's visitor center has no window on the generators, but offers an underwater view of the south shore's fish ladder and several interpretive displays.

All the District's power-producing dams closed to the public after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks for security reasons.

Last year, Lucky Peak Dam near Boise, Idaho, was reopened to cross-dam traffic after the District conducted detailed threat assessments there.

"We're reopening to the public with some minor restrictions to help maintain security at these two dams," said Lt. Col. Edward J. Kertis, Walla Walla District commander. "Our plan is to allow public access to these visitor centers throughout the prime recreation season, April 1 to Sept. 30."

Dam officials advise that visitors may experience short delays at security access points.

"The guards have other duties, so we're asking visitors to be patient with any delays at the security gates," said Dave Coleman, operations manager at McNary Lock and Dam. "We're happy to be able to allow visitor access again and still address the dam's current security requirements."

Visitors will be required to park their vehicle outside the security fence and check in through the security gate near the visitor centers. Visitor badges issued at the guard station must be worn at all times. Visitors will not be allowed to bring in purses, bags, cameras, briefcases and similar items into the visitor centers. These items cannot be checked in with the security guards and

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should be left in visitors' vehicles. Visitors will be allowed only in the visitor centers. All the other areas of the dams and related facilities will remain open only to Corps employees or other authorized official or approved individuals.

Visitor center access at the dams is subject to change without notice. **-30-**